



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. Army Forces Central Command - SA  
RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA  
APO AE 09852



AFRD-SA-CDR

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy Letter Number 1 – Prohibited Activities

1. Statement of Military Purpose and Necessity. Operations in USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) place personnel of this command in countries where Islamic law and customs prohibit or restrict certain activities which are generally permissible in western societies. Therefore, it is necessary to impose restrictions to preserve U.S.-host nation relations and to avoid conflicts with our host nations that could interfere with our military mission.

2. Applicability.

a. This Policy Letter applies to all military and civilian personnel assigned to, attached to, on temporary duty with, or otherwise sent to Saudi Arabia to support ARCENT-SA or any unit, section, detachment, or other organizational entity attached to or otherwise under direction or control of ARCENT-SA. The term “civilian personnel” includes such above described Army, Department of Defense, and other U.S. government employees. The term also includes such above described civilian-contractor employees.

b. This Policy Letter applies to all above described military and civilian personnel when they are in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, or any other country in the USCENTCOM AOR.

3. Punitive Effect. This Policy Letter is a lawful order. Personnel subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) whose conduct violates this Policy Letter are subject to punishment under the UCMJ as well as adverse administrative action. Personnel not subject to the UCMJ whose conduct violates this Policy Letter are subject to adverse administrative action.

4. Requirement to Read, Understand, and Comply with General Orders Number 1. All personnel are required to read, understand, and comply with U.S. Central Command General Order Number 1 (GO-1), dated 7 November 1996, and U.S. Army Forces Central Command General Order No. 1 (AFRD-SA), dated 30 May 1997. This Policy Letter incorporates and supplements these General Orders. In case of conflict, the more restrictive provision will apply. The General Orders are attached for your reference.

5. Introduction includes not only personal carrying of, but also any involvement, direct or indirect, in any form of importing, shipping, mailing, transporting, or otherwise

conveying such items into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, or any other country in the USCENCOM AOR.

6. Prohibited Activities. The following activities are prohibited:

- a. Any conduct that violates the aforementioned General Orders Number 1.
- b. Purchase, possession, use, transfer, or sale of privately-owned firearms, ammunition, explosives, or the introduction of these items into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, or anywhere else in the USCENCOM AOR. This prohibition also extends to any component part of such items (for example, a gun barrel or part of the housing group of a privately-owned weapon) and to any device used for explosives (for example, a fuse or detonating device).
- c. Entrance into a Mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Moslems unless invited, directed to do so by military authorities, or by military necessity. Non-Moslems may not intentionally observe Islamic religious ceremonies. Moslem soldiers may attend prayer at the MoDA Mosque, Gate 3, Eskan Village, in accordance with ARCENT-SA Policy Letter 20.
- d. Intentional observation of punishments directed by Islamic courts.
- e. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited by U.S. Army Forces Central Command General Order No. 1 in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan. However, consumption of alcohol in moderate amounts is authorized while **in Bahrain** on TDY (after official duty hours) or while **in Bahrain** on a valid ARCENT-SA Commander approved R and R pass. Soldiers may not drink while in uniform and intoxication is prohibited.
- f. Introduction, possession, transfer, sale, creation, or display of any pornographic or sexually explicit photograph, computer software, videotape, movie, drawing, book, magazine, website, file, or similar sexually explicit representations. For purposes of this prohibition, the words “pornographic” and “sexually explicit” include any medium which displays human genitalia, uncovered female breast, or any human sexual act. The rental, purchase, or viewing of print media and videotapes (to include MWR issued videotapes) from government or AAFES facilities in Saudi Arabia, as well as programs shown over government owned or leased cable television systems in Saudi Arabia, are not violations of the General Orders or this Policy Letter.
- g. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of narcotics, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia. Prescription drugs must be accompanied by the original prescription label of the participating medical facility or authority.
- h. Gambling of any kind, including sports pool, lotteries, raffles, and bingo. Gaming activities that do not cost the participant anything of value to play are not violations of the General Orders. Soldiers may participate in Bingo games conducted by Security Assistance

Organizations (USMTM and OPM-SANG) per partial waivers granted to USCENTCOM General Order Number 1, dated 4 May 1999, and USARCENT General Order Number 1, dated 20 July 1999.

i. Removing, possessing, selling, defacing, or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures.

j. Selling, bartering, or exchanging any currency other than at the official exchange rate.

k. Proselytizing of any religion, faith, or practice.

l. Wearing suggestive or otherwise inappropriate clothing in public areas outside of western environment, e.g., revealing blouses, short skirts, tight pants, shorts (men and women), earrings (men), ostentatious jewelry (men and women), etc., and wearing clothing with provocative or inflammatory artwork, slogans, emblems, or nation symbols in public areas. Consult ARCENT-SA Policy Letter 16 for further guidance.

m. Running, bicycling, rollerblading, rollerskating, or otherwise engaging in any exercise activity, either individually or in formation, unless within the physical boundaries of Prince Sultan Air Base, Eskan Village, authorized civilian compounds, or other U.S. military facilities.

n. Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.

o. Taking or retaining private or public property as individual souvenirs or trophies. This does not preclude the lawful acquisition of souvenirs that can be legally imported into the United States.

p. Carrying or displaying weapons outside U.S. military facilities except when authorized for the performance of military duties.

7. Items that violate this Policy Letter may be seized as contraband.

8. Unit commanders, leaders and supervisors are charged to ensure all personnel for which they are responsible are briefed on the prohibition of these activities.

9. This Policy Letter supersedes and rescinds all previous Policy Letters on this subject.

Encls  
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MARVIN K. McNAMARA  
COL, AD  
Commanding

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